

is retiring after more than 31 years of law enforcement service, with 22 years of that service to the City of Fairfield. As his colleagues, friends and family gather together to celebrate the next chapter of his life, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in saluting this outstanding public servant and defender of peace and safety.

Richard started his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff, serving three years for the El Dorado County Sheriff's office and over five years with the San Joaquin County Sheriff's office. On March 6, 1989, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department. As an officer, Richard worked in various capacities that included Patrol, Investigations, Street Crime Apprehension (SCAT) and Field Training. He joined the Crisis Negotiations Team in 1991, the Special Activity Felony Enforcement (SAFE) Team in 1992 and was promoted to Police Sergeant on July 30, 1999.

As a Police Sergeant, Richard served in Patrol and then Personnel and Training before being promoted to Police Lieutenant on December 14, 2001 and serving as the Commander of the Special Operations Division. He was a thoughtful and capable manager which led him to receiving the Manager of the Year award in 2002. On March 19, 2004 he was promoted to Police Captain and served in Administration, Support Services, and Field Operations.

Richard has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He was a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Mr. Speaker, I am truly honored to pay tribute to this dedicated public servant. I ask all of my colleagues to join with me in wishing Richard J. Leonardini continued success and happiness in all of his future endeavors.

#### HONORING THE NATIVE AMERICAN CODE TALKERS

**HON. JARED POLIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Native American Code Talkers for their selfless contributions to America's defense during World Wars I and II. During these times of worldwide turmoil, hundreds of American Indians joined the United States' Armed Forces with the goal of protecting freedom and human rights around the world.

The Code Talkers, as these brave soldiers became known, used their ancient tribal languages to develop a military communications code that no enemy was ever able to crack. American Indians served bravely in both World Wars, though the most well-known code group, the Navajo Code Talkers, was not formed by the Marine Corps until the 1940s.

The Navajo Code Talkers came up with a code that enabled them to send and receive messages that were unintelligible to eavesdroppers. The Navajo language had no alphabet, and only an extraordinarily few individuals outside of the Navajo community were fluent in it, making it the ideal foundation for updating the U.S. military's slow-to-decipher and

easily broken codes. Over 400 Navajo Code talkers served bravely in World War II, and their code was considered so secretive that they were prohibited from writing it down. It was not until the declassification of the code in 1968 that Americans were truly able to appreciate the contributions of the Code Talkers.

Mr. Speaker, it is fitting that as we remember the brave Americans whose lives were lost at Pearl Harbor 70 years ago this week, we also honor all of America's veterans who have committed their time and risked their lives to protect our nation. It is with great honor and respect that I offer my appreciation to the Code Talkers for exemplifying the spirit and commitment of public service and duty to country. Indeed, both their code and their commitment to America remain unbreakable, and to this day we remain in awe of their achievements.

#### REGULATIONS FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2011*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 10) to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law:

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. Chair, I rise today to express strong opposition to legislation this chamber passed yesterday, H.R. 10, the Regulations from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act of 2011.

The REINS Act requires that both chambers of Congress pass a resolution approving every regulation with an economic impact of \$100 million or more. If Congress fails to pass such a resolution, that regulation would not take effect, and the law would go unimplemented.

I oppose this legislation, which would hurt the health, safety, and well-being of my constituents and Hawaii's communities. We cannot let our constituents and communities down when it comes to these vital responsibilities.

For example, this bill would stop the rules that are being written now to implement the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act—which will rein in reckless behavior in financial markets. Important rules to implement the health care law—which is already lowering drug costs for seniors—would also be stopped. And rules relating to the recent food safety legislation and protecting clean air and water would be stopped.

These rules—and the laws they are implementing—were and are opposed by various powerful corporate special interests. Those special interests know they don't have the votes to repeal these laws—and they know the American people don't want them repealed.

So instead, corporate special interests and their allies claim that the costs of these types of rules are too big to be worth it.

They're wrong.

Even the Bush Administration recognized that the benefits of rules like these outweigh

their costs. In fact, in 2008, the Office of Management and Budget—which must sign off on all major rules developed by federal agencies—estimated that costs to the economy for major rules it approved were between \$46 billion and \$54 billion. These costs were far outweighed by the benefits of those same regulations, which they estimated to be between \$122 billion and \$656 billion. Imagine if the rules that are being written to implement Wall Street Reform had been on the books in 2005, before the financial crisis came to a head?

I believe our country could have reined in rampant, out of control behavior of Wall Street, and such regulations could have saved our economy trillions of dollars in lost economic growth and hard-earned retirement and college savings. Millions of people who have lost jobs could still be working. And this body could be focused on matters like improving U.S. education, economic competitiveness, and reducing our deficit.

Not only would this bill halt our regulatory system in its tracks, but it is also unnecessary. The Congressional Review Act already gives Congress the ability to review and disapprove of regulations if they are contrary to Congressional intent. This system ensures that the laws enacted by Congress are implemented appropriately, while preventing the law and its implementation from being hijacked by special interests on a whim—and creating disruptive uncertainty for our economy and legal system.

Mr. Speaker, people in Hawaii are tired of these politically motivated bills. They want the federal government to get to work helping to create jobs, protecting health and safety, and to do so responsibly.

The REINS Act also fails miserably on that front. This legislation would require federal agencies to conduct the rigorous analysis required to develop a rule—a process that can take several years—only to have that rule stopped by Congress. This is a waste of federal resources and irresponsible at a time when Congress needs to focus on creating jobs and reducing our deficit.

These are just some of the concerns I have with the REINS Act, and some of the reasons that I voted against this unnecessary and ill conceived legislation.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAPITOL CORRIDOR

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Capitol Corridor train service, which connects the Sacramento Region to the San Francisco Bay Area. It is a great pleasure to recognize the corridor's stellar track record of providing cost-effective, public transportation that stimulates economic development, reduces emissions, and promotes partnerships among passengers, private investors, and the communities. As the Capitol Corridors' supporters and partners gather to celebrate this milestone, I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring the essential role that the Capitol Corridor plays in Northern California.

Since its inception on December 12, 1991, with a mere six trains between Sacramento

and San Jose, the Capitol Corridor has significantly grown and invested in infrastructure, increasing the number of weekend trains to thirty-two, weekend trains to twenty-two and expanding its corridor to span seven counties with a total population of 6.7 million. In addition to investing in railcars and tracks, it has established signaling systems and sixteen stations that directly connect its passengers to the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority buses, and Sacramento Regional Transit light rails.

Over the past twenty years, the Capital Corridor has experienced a 600 percent increase in ridership, up to 1.7 million passengers in the 2010–2011 fiscal year. In all, it has carried nearly 19 million people to travel 1.3 billion miles. With this popular intercity train service, the downtown Sacramento Valley Station is now the seventh busiest Amtrak station in the country.

The Capitol Corridor has been managed by the Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority (CCJPA) since 1998. Previously, the Capitol Corridor was a partnership between Amtrak and Caltrans. The CCJPA consists of a partnership of six transit agencies from the counties serviced by the Capitol Corridor. Operating funds for the CCJPA are provided by Caltrans. Administrative costs are kept down because of the strong partnership between Amtrak, BART, Caltrain, Caltrans, CCJPA and Union Pacific Railroad. In the past twenty years, the Capitol Corridor has stayed major accident-free and also improved lives by reducing air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Capital Corridor, and its record of giving Northern Californians more transportation options, on their 20th anniversary. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Capitol Corridor's outstanding work in providing the community with much needed services.

#### ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE INAUGURAL CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

#### HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to announce before my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives the names of eleven distinguished military veterans and community servants who call the Third District of Texas home. For their selfless service and dedication to their neighbors and nation, the following individuals have been selected as recipients of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Thomas C. Garner joined the United States Army on March 5, 1943, eager to serve his nation during World War II. Originally assigned to the revered 78th Infantry Division, Garner soon applied and was selected for Army Air Corps pilot training. He served nearly a year abroad with the Air Corps, running an oxygen generating plant on Guam in support of the B-29 bombers that raided Japan.

Six months after the war's end, Garner decided to make military service his career and

reentered what was now the United States Air Force. Garner's troop carrier organization serviced all the embassies in Central and South America and the Caribbean and, from 1948–1949, participated in the Berlin Air Lift. Over the course of his career, Garner also deployed to Japan, Wake Island, Bermuda, Bangkok, and Thailand.

Garner retired in 1970 after 27 years of active duty service. He then became a civil servant, kicking off a second, 20-year career with the Social Security Administration. During those years, Garner also served with the Texas State Guard, receiving numerous awards and citations and achieving the rank of Colonel.

An active community servant with the Plano VFW and Air Force Sergeant's Association, Garner continues to put others first.

For these reasons, it is my pleasure to name Thomas Garner a recipient of the inaugural Congressional Veteran Commendation for the Third District of Texas.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on December 7, 2011, I was unavoidably detained and was unable to record my vote for Rollcall No. 898. Had I been present I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 898: "Yes"—Jackson Lee of Texas Part B Amendment No. 6.

#### A TRIBUTE TO NIKITA DAVIS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ms. Nikita Davis for her passion for teaching and serving as a mentor to the youth in her community.

Ms. Davis was influenced at a young age by her peers and teachers to serve as a role model for young adults in New York City. When she attended Mary Louis Academy for girls in Jamaica Estates, New York, her mathematics teacher made such a great impression on her that it has transcended into her current work. At the time Ms. Davis gained an affinity for working with adolescents and other students, tutoring and teaching them alongside her teachers.

When Ms. Davis enrolled in Mount St. Mary College and began studying mathematics and secondary education, she continued her work with teens in the community. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, Ms. Davis was offered a teaching position in the Mathematics Department of the NYC Department of Education. She has served in this capacity for the past eight years and truly loves the difference she can make among the youth.

Ms. Davis reminds herself of how her grassroots involvement with her peers at a young age propelled her to this current post. To this day Ms. Davis still works with students after school for personal tutoring, and is a member

of the United Federation of Teachers Delegate Assembly where she serves as a union delegate for her colleagues.

A quote that offers a unique perspective into the drive Ms. Davis has for her profession is by Sasha Azevedo. "When you love people and have the desire to make a profound, positive impact upon the world, then you will have accomplished the meaning to live." For Ms. Davis this is the essence of her mission as an educator.

Ms. Davis lives in Brooklyn, NY, and is married to her wonderful husband Derrick and has two daughters, Anaiya and Laila.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the profound accomplishments of Ms. Nikita Davis to continue the fight of educating our youth.

#### THE REOPENING AMERICAN CAPITAL MARKETS TO EMERGING GROWTH COMPANIES ACT OF 2011

#### HON. STEPHEN LEE FINCHER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, December 8, 2011*

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, unemployed Americans are crying out for more jobs and urging Congress to review rules and regulations that stifle innovation, economic growth, and job creation. I am introducing the Reopening American Capital Markets to Emerging Growth Companies Act of 2011 for one reason: to increase job creation on Main Street. Burdensome costs are discouraging companies from going public, which deprives firms of the capital needed to expand their businesses and hire more American workers.

During the last fifteen years, fewer and fewer start-up companies have pursued Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) to access the capital needed to expand their businesses, develop innovative products, and hire new employees. The number of IPOs in the United States is slipping behind the rest of the world in terms of growing our markets. Other markets are growing or holding steady, while the United States continues to decline. This is especially true in the Asian markets, which have seen an explosion of new public companies in recent years.

Since 2010, the Asian markets have had nearly 700 new IPOs compared to less than 300 in the United States during the same time-frame. Unfortunately, federal regulatory burdens are a major contributing factor in the steep drop of IPOs in the United States.

This decline is of concern because going public provides opportunities for companies to raise badly needed capital in order to expand, reinvest, and create jobs. From 2008–2010, 21 percent of the United States GDP was generated by venture capital-backed start-up companies. In addition, an August 2011 survey of CEOs conducted by the IPO Task Force found that over 90 percent of job growth occurs after a company goes public.

Unfortunately, a series of "one-size-fits-all" laws and regulations have changed the nature of the United States' capital markets and had a disproportionate cost on smaller American public companies. Washington's regulatory oversteps have harmed American workers by eliminating jobs that are created when a start-up company decides to go public. Instead, to